

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 /112 W

----- 113256

O P 212045Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5774

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2498

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO, OAS

SUBJ: HONDURAS/SALVADOR: FONMIN'S VIEWS ON COMMITTEE OF SEVEN
APPEARANCE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2440

GUATEMAL ALSO FOR ROCAP; USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. DCM AND I, ACCOMPANIED BY DESK OFFICER WACKERBARTH, CALLED ON
FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO MORNING OF JUNE 21 TO SEEK HIS REACTION
TO BATRES' IMPENDING MEETING WITH C-7, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN REPORTED
IN LOCAL PRESS. BORGONOVO SAID HE HAD BEEN QUERIED BY REPORTERS ON
THE

BATRES TRIP AND HAD RESPONDED THAT THREE OR FOUR DAYS AFTER THE
"FRUSTRATED" JALAPA MEETING

HE HAD SENT A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR

BERTRAND FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE C-7 WHICH EXPLAINED THE JALAPA
POSTPONEMENT FROM THE SALVADORAN POINT OF VIEW. BORGONOVO
APPARENTLY CONVEYED TO THE PRESS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LETTER
FULFILLED THE SAME PURPOSE AS BATRES' MEETING WOULD DO; HOWEVER,
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HE DELIBERATELY FOGGED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HE WOULD MAKE A

SIMILAR VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

2. TO US, BORGONOVO ADMITTED THAT HE WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO MEET WITH THE C-7. HOWEVER, HE WANTS FIRST TO COMPLETE HIS HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE BOUNDARY WHICH HE ESTIMATES WILL TAKE ANOTHER WEEK. HE THEN WOULD LIKE TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH BATRES DURING THE JULY 1 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL CEREMONIES IN GUATEMALA, REVIEW THE SITUATION IN LIGHT OF HIS BOUNDARY STUDY AND WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PROCEED FROM THERE. BORGONOVO IS CALLING AMBASSADOR BETRAND TO EXPLAIN HIS PROPOSAL AND WILL INSTRUCT HIM TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THOSE INTERESTED IN WASHINGTON, I.E. C-7, USGOV AND PRESUMABLY BATRES. BORGONOVO ALSO HOPES THIS WILL FORESTALL ANY ACTION THE C-7 MIGHT TAKE AFTER HEARING THE ONDURAN FONMIN THAT WOULD PLACE BORGONOVO IN A DIFFICULT POSITION DOMESTICALLY. IT WAS APPARENT THAT BORGONOVO WAS MAKING HIS PLAN KNOWN TO US SO THAT WE MIGHT USE OUR CHANNELS TO WASHINGTON AND OUR OTHER CA MISSION TO CLARIFY THE SALVADORAN INTENTIONS VIS A VIS THE C-7 AND FUTURE BI-LATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT TO BORGONOVO THAT WE BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT THAT HE MEET WITH THE C-7, PERHAPS AFTER THE SESSION WITH BATRES IN GUATEMALA, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE EL SALVADOR'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO PURSUE PEACEFUL MEANS TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WENT INTO SOME DETAIL ABOUT HIS BOUNDARY STUDY. HE SAID HE HAS COMPLETED IT THROUGH THE YEAR 1968; HE WILL NOW REVIEW IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE WAR AND THE VARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SUBSEQUENTLY BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR. HE SAID THAT HIS STUDY HAS DISCLOSED THAT IN THE PAST, BOTH SIDES HAD ENGAGED IN DECEIT IN ESTABLISHING THEIR HISTORICAL CLAIMS BY ALTERING THE LOCATION OF IDENTIFIABLE TERRAIN FEATURES ON VARIOUS MAPS. ANY SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BOUNDARY ISSUE WOULD PREFERABLY SIFT THROUGH THE ALTERED VERSIONS TO ESTABLISH THE HISTORICAL TRUTH OF THE MATTER. BORGONOVO ADDED THAT HE ALSO WANTS TO DETERMINE WHAT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS WITHIN HONDURAN TERRITORY THE SALVADORAN MILITARY MAY STILL BE HOLDING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR AND WILL BEGIN TO DISCUSS WITH THE ARMED FORCES THE NECESSITY OF AN EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL AS PART OF A COMPROMISE SOLUTION.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL CONCERNING INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT SO THAT BORGONOVO MAY CONSIDER THIS OPTION BEFORE MEETING WITH BATRES.

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, COMMITTEES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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